

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 EPA-04 FAA-00 EB-07 L-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DOTE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY INT/FWS RSKOOG:IMD

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FWS:JBOHLEN

EPA:W BROWN

EUR/SOV:RPARDON

OES/ENP/EN:JGBURKE

FAA:BILL HAMM (INFO)

----- 036356

R 052146Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 049649

E.O. 11652: N/S

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: USA-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENT:

PROJECT V-2.1 (PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS)

--MUSKOXEN TRANSPLANT TO USSR.

REF: STATE 029002

1. TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH DR. DENISOV, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, HAS CONFIRMED STRONG SOVIET INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH MUSKOXEN CAPTURE AND TRANSPLANT AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. DENISOV UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO GUARANTEE SOVIET COMPLIANCE AND CARRY-THROUGH, B'T STATES HE IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET USSR COMMITMENTS AND OUR SCHEDULE. TENTATIVE SOVIET PLANS INDICATE THAT TWO (2) SPECIALISTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN CAPTURE OPERATION; ONE MAN IDENTIFIED AS DR. SAVVA USPENSKY. TWO (2) SOVIET AIRPLANES WILL TRANSPORT MUSKOXEN FROM NUNIVACK ISLAND TO SIBERIA IN TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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(2) ROUND-TRIPS EACH. DENISOV INTENDS TO TELEPHONE

SKOOG 12 MARCH 1975 WITH FINAL DETAILS; HE WAS REQUESTED TO INFORM AMEMBASSY ALSO.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS MESSAGE BELOW FROM DR. RONALD O. SKOOG TO DR. VICTOR D. DENISOV, DEPUTY CHIEF, MAIN CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WITH COPY TO KUVSHINNIKOV OF HYDROMET. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY FOLLOWING THROUGH AS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM DENISOV AND KUVSHINNIKOV.

3. "DEAR DR. DENISOV: IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1975, THE US SIDE IS PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR THE CAPTURE OF FORTY (40) MUSKOXEN AS AGREED UPON IN OUR PROTOCOL AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S 12 DECEMBER 1974 MEMORANDUM OF IMPLEMENTATION. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU PLAN TO CARRY OUT SOVIET COMMITMENTS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THE TASK.

4. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN TO YOU THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES OUTLINED EARLIER:
A. THE CAPTURE OF THE MUSKOXEN WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 26 MARCH AND 4 APRIL 1975, BUT ONLY REPEAT ONLY IF THE US SIDE HAS RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 14 MARCH 1975 A FIRM DECISION FROM THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THEY WILL PICK-UP THE FORTY (40) ANIMALS FROM NUNIVAK ISLAND AND TRANSPLANT THEM TO THE USSR IN SOVIET AIRPLANES SOMETIME BETWEEN 4-15 APRIL 1975. WE WILL ALSO REQUIRE BY 14 MARCH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF FEBRUARY 7.

B. IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN MUSKOX CAPTURE, TWO (2) SOVIET SPECIALISTS MUST ARRIVE IN ALASKA ON OR BEFORE 24 MARCH 1975.

C. THE SOVIET AIRPLANES SHOULD ARRIVE IN BETHEL, ALASKA, 4 APRIL 1975 IF POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 15 APRIL 1975.

D. PLEASE RESPOND VIA AMERICAN EMBASSY MOSCOW.
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5. THE US SIDE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH DON MAIER PRODUCTIONS TO COLOR-FILM THE MUSKOX OPERATION IN ALASKA. THIS FILMING COMPANY IS SAME ONE DR. KRINITSKY WORKED WITH IN THE USSR. I HOPE YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR THE SOVIET SIDE TO FILM MUSKOX RELEASE INTO SIBERIA, SO WE CAN HAVE A COMPLETE MOVIE OF THE ENTIRE OPERATION

-- SINCERELY YOURS,

-- RONALD O. SKOOG INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS, JOINT VENTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE049649
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IMD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750078-0764
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750379/aaaacter.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INT
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 029002
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USA-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENT: PROJECT V-2.1 (PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS)
TAGS: SENV, US, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006